1896MNRAS..57...35.

NOTICE TO FELLOWS.

THERE will be a Special General Meeting of the Society on 1897 January 8, at 9.45 P.M., after the Ordinary Meeting, to consider a proposal of the Council to alter Bye-laws 69 to 74 as follows :—

That Bye-laws 69 to 74 be altered by the addition of the word " gold " before the word " medal."

The Bye-laws in question at present read thus :—

EXTRACT FROM THE BYE-LAWS.

SECTION XVI.—*Of Awarding the Medal.*

69. No more than one medal shall be awarded or given during the course of any one year.

70. At the regular meeting of the Council, in the month of November in every year, the Council shall (prior to any other business) take into their consideration the propriety and expediency of awarding such medal ; and the name of every person who may be proposed and seconded as deserving the same shall be entered in the Minute-book.

71. Whenever more than one person shall have been proposed, the Council shall, at their regular meeting in December, select one of the persons so proposed to be submitted to the Council in January following on the question whether he shall or shall not receive the medal.

72. At the regular meeting of the Council in January following, the Council shall decide whether the nominee then before the Council shall or shall not receive the medal.

73. No medal shall be awarded in any other way than in the manner and at the time above prescribed ; nor unless three-fourths at least of the Members of the Council present shall agree thereto.

74. Notwithstanding the preceding Bye-laws, in cases where two or more persons have been jointly concerned in the production of any scientific treatise, or the carrying out of any research, work, or discovery, or have been the simultaneous but

1896MNRAS..57...35.

independent authors of any such treatise, work, research, or discovery, the Council may, under these circumstances, receive the nomination of such two or more persons as joint recipients of the medal, and proceed thereupon in like manner as above mentioned with respect to the names of separate persons; and should the medal be ultimately awarded to such joint authors, workers, or discoverers, an impression of the medal shall be provided for and given to each of such joint recipients.

It will be seen that the above alteration will make it possible to award a Silver or Bronze Medal in addition to the Gold Medal. The Council now desire to award a Bronze Medal at intervals in accordance with the provisions of a Trust accepted by the Society in 1861 on terms which are specified in the extracts given below.

THE HANNAH JACKSON (*NÉE* GWILT) GIFT.

Extract from the Minutes of the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society, 1861 *June* 14.

The following proposal from Mrs. Hannah Jackson was received:—

"To the Royal Astronomical Society.

"I desire to give the sum of three hundred pounds stock now standing in my name in the books of the Bank of England to the intent that the same may be a reversionary gift into the names of the proper authorities for the time being of the Royal Astronomical Society of London, to be held upon trust for ever to pay and apply the dividends thereof, either annually or every two years, as they shall think fit, for the encouragement from time to time of any person writing the best astronomical work, or in any other way advancing astronomy, either by the invention of a new astronomical instrument or by the discovery of any new heavenly body. And I hereby desire that if, in the opinion of the said Society, the person writing such work or making such invention or discovery as aforesaid shall prefer the reward, they may choose the interest of the sum aforesaid in money or in a Gold Medal, and that the Gift shall be called the 'Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Gift.'

"I wish to receive the interest of the three hundred pounds stock without any difficulty during my life, but at the termination thereof, then to be held and applied as aforesaid for the purpose before named.

"Yours respectfully,
(Signed) "HANNAH JACKSON,
"*née* GWILT.

1896MNRAS..57...35.

"P.S.—And I particularly wish that the gift may be completed without delay, as in a few weeks I propose going to Germany, and it will be very uncertain when I may return, and it is desirable to be done before then."

A discussion followed on the terms of Mrs. Jackson's proposal, and the form in which it could be received. The following resolutions were put:—

1. That in the event of Mrs. Jackson's offer being accepted the limit of the term of the accumulation of the interest be extended to seven years; proposed by Mr. Airy, seconded by Mr. Adams, and carried.

2. That it be permitted to apply the accumulated interest to the gift of a medal, or money, or of both; proposed by Mr. Airy, seconded by Mr. Walker, and carried.

3. That the objects of reward be the writing of an astronomical work or memoir, the invention or improvement of an astronomical instrument, the discovery of a new heavenly body, or the promotion in any other way of the science of astronomy; proposed by Mr. Airy, seconded by Mr. De la Rue, and carried.

4. That, subject to the above, the gift be accepted; proposed by Mr. Airy and seconded by Mr. Vignoles.

The following was proposed by way of amendment:—

That it be represented to Mrs. Jackson that it is desirable that such donations as hers should be as much as possible unfettered with conditions of application, and that Mrs. Jackson be asked if she would be willing to leave her fund as a special part of the funded property of the Society, with power to the Council to apply the interest as they may see fit from time to time; proposed by Mr. Carrington, seconded by Mr. Cayley, and negatived.

Resolution 4 was then put and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Jackson was then introduced to the Council, and the first three resolutions read and explained to her, when she gave her unqualified assent to the modifications introduced into her original proposal. The mode of transfer was arranged to be as follows:—Mrs. Jackson expressed her [intention] of directing her broker to transfer 300*l*. New 3 per cent. Stock now standing in her name in the books of the Bank of England to the Royal Astronomical Society, and to transmit the notice of the transfer thereof to the Treasurer of the Society, who would call at the Bank and accept the stock in the name of the Society, it being understood that a sum equal to the interest should be annually payable to Mrs. Jackson during her lifetime. Mrs. Jackson was also informed that the Council with pleasure acceded to her request that the *Monthly Notices* should be sent to her (gratis). She was further informed that her name would be enrolled in the list of benefactors.

1896MNRAS..57...35.

Extract from the Annual Report of the Council, 1862 *February* (*Monthly Notices*, vol. xxii. No. 4).

The Council have to announce the receipt of a handsome reversionary gift. Mrs. Hannah Jackson has made over 300*l.* stock, reserving the dividends during her life, for the promotion of astronomy by rewards to be given in the name of "Hannah Jackson, *née* Gwilt." The conditions, including some slight modifications to which Mrs. Jackson at once consented on the suggestion of the Council, are as follows :—When the endowment takes effect, the accumulations of income, for any term not exceeding seven years, are, at the discretion of the Council, to be from time to time given in the form of a medal, or of money, or of both to the writer of any astronomical work or memoir, the inventor or improver of any astronomical instrument, the discoverer of any new heavenly body, or the promoter in any other way of the science of astronomy. The Council invite the Fellows to return thanks to Mrs. Jackson, not only for this very munificent gift, but for the judgment shown in allowing the mode of employment to be unfettered by any restrictions which might possibly diminish its utility.

Mrs. Jackson (or, as she styled herself latterly, Mrs. Jackson-Gwilt) died on 1893 December 1, and dividends were paid her up to that date. Since that time they have been accumulating, and there is now about 26*l.* in the treasurer's hands. Meanwhile the mode of awarding the Gift has been under consideration by the Council, and the following resolutions have been passed by them :—

1. That the award be called the "Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Gift."
2. That it consist of a money grant and a bronze medal.
3. That the design for the medal be a portrait of Sir William Herschel on the obverse, with allegorical design on the reverse, and be about 3 inches in diameter.
4. That the Gift be awarded at intervals of not less than three nor more than seven years.
5. That Bye-laws 69 to 74 be altered by the addition of the word "gold" before the word "medal."

It will be seen from the above extracts from the minutes of Council that—

Resolution 1 is necessary by the terms of the Trust, and

Resolution 2 was definitely contemplated at the time of acceptance of the Trust.

1896MNRAS..57...35.

In accordance with Resolution 3, a design for a medal has been prepared by Miss Casella, and is now at the Society's rooms.

Resolution 4 is in accordance with the spirit of the resolution adopted at the time of acceptance of the Trust.

For Resolution 5 a General Meeting of the Society is necessary.

The proposed amendment of the Bye-laws is purely formal, no new principle being involved, since the general principle of the award of another medal was adopted by the Society in the adoption of the report of the Council for 1862, as quoted above. The amendment might have been considered at the Annual General Meeting in February next; but as it is proposed to make the first award of this Gift at that Annual Meeting, it is desirable to secure this alteration in the Bye-laws beforehand. Under these circumstances the Council resolved at their meeting on December 11 to call a Special General Meeting for 1897 January 8, as above, in accordance with Bye-laws 52, 49, and 51, which read as follows :—

52. Whenever the Council may think it advisable to propose the enactment of any new Bye-law, or the alteration or repeal of any existing Bye-law, they shall recommend the same to the Society at the Annual General Meeting next ensuing, or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

49. The Council may at any time call a Special General Meeting of the Society when it seems to them to be necessary.

51. A week's notice shall be sent to every Fellow residing in or near London of the time of any Special General Meeting, and of the business for which it is summoned, and no business shall be brought forward at such Meeting except what has been so notified.

E. W. MAUNDER, } *Secretaries.*
H. H. TURNER, }

1896MNRAS..57...35.

The Total Solar Eclipse of 1896 *August* 9.

(*Note by the Secretaries.*)

A paper has been communicated to the Society by the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee of the Royal Society and Royal Astronomical Societies on observations of the above eclipse, and will appear in the *Memoirs.* The observations were made by Mr. E. J. Stone, Radcliffe Observer, who was enabled to occupy a station in Novaya Zemlya by the private enterprise and liberality of Sir George Baden-Powell, who had conveyed the observers there in his own yacht and at his own expense.

Mr. Stone read his paper to the meeting on December 11, and exhibited the photographic spectra of prominences which he had obtained with a wide slit. He further showed photographs of the spectrum of the outer corona taken during totality and up to 60 seconds afterwards (the general character of the spectrum remaining the same), and some outline drawings of portions of the corona.

After Mr. Stone had read his paper, Mr. W. Shackleton, who had also accompanied the expedition on the invitation of Sir G. Baden-Powell, showed some photographs of the spectrum of the chromosphere and inner corona, taken with an objective prism. One of these, taken just before totality, showed a series of bright lines in the positions of the Fraunhofer lines, and was presumably the spectrum of the so-called "reversing layer."

Sir George Baden-Powell had himself assisted Mr. Shackleton with the coronagraph during totality, exposing the plates on the Sun. He showed the series of photographs of the corona, and gave an account of the circumstances which led him to organise the expedition, and continued :—

"Perhaps I may say a word or two as to how we secured those wonderful astronomical results which Mr. Stone and Mr. Shackleton have so well described.

"They told you much, but on one important matter they were silent. They did not tell of the very arduous work through which they went—how they toiled in the face of cold, fog, rain, sleet, and wind to get the instruments set up, protected, and adjusted. Without all that devoted work and exposure there could and would have been no results.

"For instance, the Siderostat falsely worked quite well almost up to the time of totality, and then we could see, to our horror, on the ground glass in the coronagraph the image of the Sun travelling steadily off the field. Mr. Shackleton energetically attacked the clockwork adjustments, but still the image was refractory, and only just before totality did he say, 'Now she'll do!'

"Perhaps the happiest moment to me during the eclipse was after totality, and immediately all was bright and light again,